IN THE CLAIMS:

1   1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring and controlling power consumption
2   comprising:
3   reading power consumption data using an automatic reader;
4   collecting the data from the reader [in] into a computer memory device;
5   creating a forecast of electric power consumption for a predetermined period of time
6   using [the] a computer system, wherein the computer system is used in the creation of a forecast
7   based on usage for a portion of the predetermined period of time; and
8   controlling an amount of power consumption by controlling a device that consumes
9   power based on the forecast.

1   2. (Currently Amended) The method[,] according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done
2   manually by hand.

1   3. (Currently Amended) The method[,] according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done
2   manually using [a] the computer system.

1   4. (Currently Amended) The method[,] according to claim 1, wherein said controlling is done
2   automatically through [a] the computer system.

1   5. (Currently Amended) The method[,] according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period
2   of time is instantaneous.

1   6. (Currently Amended) The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of
2   time is [any] a chronological period of time.

1   7. (Currently Amended) The method, according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of
2   time [may by any] is a non-chronological period of time.

1   8. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring and controlling power consumption

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2   comprising:

3   a reader for obtaining power consumption data [from an electric utility service]; and,

4   a computer system for collecting the data from the reader wherein the computer system is

5   used [to create] in the creation of a forecast of electric power consumption for a predetermined

6   period of time based on usage for a portion of the predetermined period of time and wherein a

7   device that consumes [electricity] power is controlled based on the forecast.

1   9. (Currently Amended) The [method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said controlling is

2   done manually using a computer.

1   10. (Currently Amended) The [method ,] system according to claim 8, wherein said controlling is

2   done automatically through a computer.

1   11. (Currently Amended) The [method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said

2   predetermined period of time is instantaneous.

1   12. (Currently Amended) The [method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said

2   predetermined period of time is [any] a chronological period of time.

1   13. (Currently Amended) The [method,] system according to claim 8, wherein said

2   predetermined period of time [may by any] is a non-chronological period of time.

1   14. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the computer system controls the device so

2   that usage for the predetermined time period falls below a predetermined amount.

1   15. (New) The system according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined amount represents a

2   target and when usage falls below the target for the predetermined time period the user becomes

3   entitled to a rebate.

1   16. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader

2   is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in amperage.

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1   17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader

2   is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in wattage.

1   18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader

2   is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in kilowatt-hours.

1   19. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to

2   the computer memory device via wireless communications.

1   20. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the

2   computer memory device via wired communications.

1   21. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to

2   the computer system via wireless communications.

1   22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to

2   the computer system via wired communication.

1   23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined period of time is two or

2   more instantaneous time periods.

1   24. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader

2   is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in amperage.

1   25. (New) The system according to claim 8 wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader

2   is power consumption for one or more circuits measured in wattage.

1   26. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data obtained from the automatic reader

2   is power consumption data for one or more circuits measured in kilowatt-hours.

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1   27. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the

2   computer memory device via wireless communications.

1   28. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the

2   computer memory device via wired communications.

1   29. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the

2   computer system via wireless communications.

1   30. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the data is transferred from the reader to the

2   computer system via wired communication.

1   31. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the controlling is done manually by hand.

1   32. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined period of time is two or

2   more instantaneous time periods.

1   33. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is used to

2   control a security system.

1   34. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is used to

2   control a fire alarm system.

1   35. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the computer system controls a security

2   system.

1   36. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the computer system controls a fire alarm

2   system.

1   37. (New) The system according to claim 8, is responsive to a remote user interface, and

2   operative to control a security system.

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1   38. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is used to control the

2   device so that usage for the predetermined time period falls below a predetermined amount.

1   39. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined amount represents a

2   target and when usage falls below the target for the predetermined time period the user becomes

3   entitled to a rebate.